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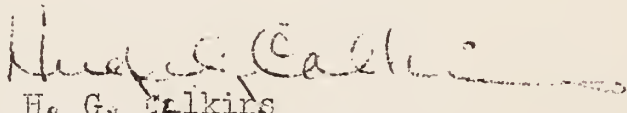
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
April 27, 1937

RESOLUTIONS OF THE RANGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
ALBUQUERQUE, FEBRUARY 24-27, 1937

The following resolutions were approved by the Range Management Section of the Region 8 conference held in Albuquerque, February 24 to 27, 1937.

These resolutions represent the concensus of opinion of district and regional representatives present at this conference. It is requested that you familiarize yourself with the principles advocated and apply these principles to the work in the field pending the completion of the Regional handbook.

Provided any questions arise as to applicability of any of these resolutions, please inform this office immediately.

  
H. G. Calkins  
Regional Conservator

SEP 29 1938



## RANGE MANAGEMENT RESOLUTIONS

### PROPER RANGE UTILIZATION FOR EROSION CONTROL

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#### Objectives

##### Primary

Utilization estimates are designed to provide data which will facilitate Range Management to accomplish proper restoration and maintenance of a protective cover of vegetation of high forage value that will check erosion and conserve moisture, and build up soil fertility.

##### Secondary

Utilization surveys are valuable in that:

1. They enable Range Management to more definitely arrive at the actual carrying capacity for a ranch.
2. They contribute to our knowledge of the palatability of range forage plants.
3. They add to the original range survey data, information relative to volume production.

#### Recommendations

The committee recommends the following:

1. That utilization estimates made from the standpoint of soil and water conservation must take into account the condition of the ranges, i.e., volume growth, plant vigor, density of plant cover, degree of stabilization of soil erosion and degree of grazing, rainfall and the current forage production compared to the yearly average.
2. That the terms and forms used in utilization estimates should be standardized throughout the region.
3. That the utilization estimate methods, which are based on available data, and as they are in process of development by the Soil Conservation Service, should be encouraged and made use of as much as possible.
4. Forage acre requirement should be based on past use records over several years where available, for a given area, keeping in mind the particular type of computations used in arriving at a forage acre.





5. That a procedure be worked out which will express erosion intensity (rate of erosion, i.e., slow or rapid removal or deposition of soil, degree of stabilization), and soil type potential (ability to produce forage) during the time of the utilization estimates. These data to be expressed on the utilization estimate sheet in the field.

### RANGE UNIT PLANS

That range unit plans hereafter be known as Range Management material for an integrated land use plan.

That Range Management material used in the land use plan will be divided into three divisions as follows:

#### a. Graphic

Maps shall be on a scale of either one or two inches to the mile for the average-sized unit, but for larger units that cover 500,000 acres or over, and at the discretion of the Officer in Charge, maps may be reduced to a scale of one-half inch or one-fourth inch to the mile. On individual small farm units, the scale shall be eight inches to the mile.

Overlays on finished maps will not be used to show stocking, improvements, or for any other purpose.

The range use maps will include the following data:

#### (1) Unit or Sub-Unit

Boundaries, number or name of sub-units, surface acreages, carrying capacity in livestock units, and season of use, also pasture management and movements of livestock.

#### (2) Major Types

Their use on the map is optional with the Officer in Charge and if used, will be colored without type designations according to standard legend.

#### (3) Proposed Range Improvements

#### b. Tabular

Tabulation of range data may be placed upon a separate sheet or may be printed directly on the map sheet. The accompanying form is recommended.

#### c. Written

This material will be in the form of a brief summary along with



other uses, by sub-units or units, of the proper range management for the particular sub-unit or unit, and will include class of stock, numbers of stock, season of use, and improvements including a salt plan and other practices necessary to secure proper distribution. This can further be supplemented by reasons and justifications if advisable.

### RANGE MANAGEMENT FORMS

Kinds of forms:

- A. Forms necessary for range management surveys
  - 1. Range Survey Write-up sheet
  - 2. Compilation sheet
    - (a) Should keep data separated as to land status and vegetative types.
  - 3. Plant Identification form
- B. Livestock Census form (where possible standardize)
- C. Actual Use Record form
- D. Administrative forms
  - 1. Crossing Permit
  - 2. Application for Grazing Permit
  - 3. Grazing Permit form
- E. Utilization form
- F. Management Plans form (Tabular)  
Agreed on above by Committee
- G. Range Improvement forms: For District to decide

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## LIVESTOCK RANCHERS' PROBLEMS

This committee finds that basic evidence describing the effects of various degrees of overstocking on the income of ranchers is inadequate to form governing principles to be used in a program of action. It recommends that economic studies of ranching using a sample of ranches, carefully selected to illustrate the effect of various states of depletion, with other factors affecting income remaining as nearly similar as possible, be undertaken to determine the effect of such conditions on the income of the ranch operators. These studies should be comprehensive enough to establish policies relative to the retirement of lands which are uneconomic for livestock production if operated according to proper soil and water conservation practices. In addition, they should supply data for the determination of what is a minimum economic range livestock unit (a ranch unit) necessary for a reasonably adequate family income.

### FORAGE UTILIZATION\*

Until a definite and safe method for measuring forage utilization and establishing the maximum utilization consistent with soil conservation principles is presented and agreed to by this Service, the following guide will be used as to objectives:

It is desirable that utilization observations be made twice yearly. One of these times should be at the completion of the growing season. The first would be a basis for the number of livestock units to be carried through the fall and winter months; the other a check of past use as well as an indication for use of the following grazing period. When the observation is made just prior to the principal growing season, there should be at least sufficient reserve forage present which, together with a probable light current forage production, would carry the livestock through the ensuing grazing period without causing accelerated erosion. This reserve forage should consist of a portion of the more palatable forage. Extremes in yearly forage production should not be followed by like fluctuations in numbers of livestock; rather, these fluctuations should be held nearer to a long time average forage production. This is a guide for a controlled unit. For a sub-unit or pasture which is grazed only part of the year, the grazing intensity should be not detrimental to the forage vigor or soil.

\*Prepared by J. L. Lantow following the meeting.

